

The phonological structure modifying sound changes in the Old Hungarian

Katona Csilla

The sound changes modifying phonological structure of common words and toponyms has often been in the focus of Hungarian linguistics. Many excellent works have been written in the fields of vowel dropping from the second or third open syllable, metathesis, disappearance of stem-final vowels, and non-etymological vowels and consonants. Over time these topics have become obsolete. Albeit, I would like to return to these research fields by putting the focus of my dissertation on them.

First of all I provide an overview of published scholarly opinions and findings on these processes of changes. Afterwards, I examine the sound changes using a new aspect and yet unstudied data. The Old Hungarian toponyms and modern lexemes from regional dialects were chosen as the base of my dissertation.

My dissertation consists three larger units. The first chapter focuses on the major issues in the background of the dissertation. My leading hypothesis is that the phonological structure can induce and influence changes. For proving my hypothesis, I examine the typical phonotactic patterns of Hungarian language, and I study the consonant relations of the toponyms and dialectal lexemes. The applied phonological method is described in my research. The Optimality Theory complements the method of historical phonology.

In the second chapter of my work I show the sources (the Old Hungarian toponyms and modern lexemes from regional dialects) and the database.

Furthermore, in the third and final chapter of my dissertation the sound changes are specified. I summarize the results presented in literature about this change including the issues of terminology.

The section of vowel dropping from the second open syllable I study the nature of language changes, then I examine terminology issues and their theoretical science background. After all, I present the types of the change with the help of toponyms and dialectal words, then I study the dropping vowel and the chronological and territorial characteristics of the change.

The next section I analyze the problem of the disappearance of stem-final vowels. The sequence of the body was managed by the phonological structure of the precedent lexemes. The chronological aspect of the change was particularly explicated in this section.

The third studied change, the metathesis was specified in two ways, a traditional linguistic considers it associational sound change. Contrarily works based on modern phonology emphasize the regularity of the change. Because of this, I examined the language change with this view. I also studied the chronological and territorial aspect in this section.

I divided the investigation of non-etymological vowels and consonants into two chapters in my dissertation. In some cases I also examine the dropping consonants, that means a change in the opposite direction.

Finally I closed my dissertation with some additional thoughts, which point out the further objects and possibilities. These thoughts appertain to the results of my examinations.